



WINNER OF FOUR NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION AWARDS INCLUDING GENERAL EXCELLENCE IN 2011

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General Meeting

April 19, 9 a.m.
Multi-Purpose Facility



Ute flags posted in State Capitol

By Jeremy Wade Shockley
The Southern Ute Drum

The sound of drums echoed off granite walls as dignitaries gathered to recognize the Colorado Ute tribes' flags in the state Capitol on Thursday, March 22.

The flag ceremony officially marked the residency of the Ute flags in the state's center of government. The Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute flags — yellow and blue, respectively — will be displayed prominently outside Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia's office.

Carried in by veterans led by Southern Ute tribal elder Austin Box, the colors were posted in the main entrance as delegates from the tribes watched.

Colorado State Governor John Hickenlooper spoke to a captive audience.

"The State of Colorado continues to honor the government-to-government relationship with the two Colorado Ute tribes," Hickenlooper said. "Their impact on the state cannot be overstated."

"When we fly this flag, we fly it with dignity, as part of our tradition," said Ute Mountain Ute Vice Chairman Bradley



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Austin Box, a Southern Ute elder and veteran, stands alongside representatives from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in a historic flag ceremony honoring the Ute tribes of Colorado. The flags will be posted in the State Capitol permanently following the ceremony, which took place on Thursday, March 22 under the supervision of Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Hight. Hight also paid tribute to the original designers who helped create the tribal flags.

Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council Member and former Chairman Howard D. Richards Sr. spoke on behalf of his tribe.

"I thank [state officials] for allowing us this honor today," he said, adding that past leaders might be thinking "It's about time the State of Colorado recognized our tribes through our flags."

Ernest House Jr., executive secretary to the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, noted that the ceremony was the result of almost two years of collaboration between the governor's office and the commission.

Academy earns Montessori accreditation

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

The Southern Ute Indian Montessori Academy has earned accreditation from the American Montessori Society, becoming the first Native American school in the country to win the recognition.

"It's a goal we've worked toward since we opened up back in 2000," said Director Carol Baker Olguin. "You have to go through a great deal of meeting standards that were set by the Montessori society."

From the society's website: "During the application process, every aspect of the school is examined and documented, including governance, curriculum, fiscal and personnel policies, facilities, health and safety practices, teacher preparation, and learner outcomes."

As part of the process, a team from AMS visited the academy in November 2009 to assess its compliance with Montessori

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Denver, Durango host powwows



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Powwows filled the calendar last month from Denver to Durango. Veterans greet each other following a Grand Entry at the Denver March Powwow held March 23-25 in the Denver Coliseum, billed as Colorado's largest gathering of tribes each spring. Crowned Miss Hozhoni at the 48th annual Fort Lewis College Hozhoni Days Powwow, Sunshine Perry receives congratulations from friends and family on Saturday, March 31 following the Native American pageant.



photo courtesy Melinda Ortiz



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Peter Dietrich of the Southern Ute Environmental Programs Division stands alongside Chris Herman, and environmental services specialist, to inspect a vent pipe that was installed at the Cuthair residence in Oxford. The electronic ventilation system is part of a radon-mitigation program offered by the tribe to alleviate the toxic fumes that can build up in residential homes regardless of age.

Environmental Programs clears the air

By Peter Dietrich
Southern Ute Environmental Programs Division

The Southern Ute Environmental Programs Division installed a radon-mitigation system on Tuesday, March 27 in Delbert Cuthair Jr.'s Oxford home as part of an ongoing effort to make tribal members' homes safer.

Several techniques may be used in radon mitigation, but in Cuthair's case the best and least invasive strategy was to dig down to the French drain that goes around the outside of the foundation and install a vent. Other techniques require drilling multiple holes in the concrete slab foundation to get to the ground underneath the house or laying down thick plastic and adding ventilation in a crawlspace.

The French drain method only requires a single hole to be dug down to the drain, where a 4-inch PVC pipe and radon fan are

connected to the drain in order to safely vent the gas above the roofline and away from any windows. The radon fan runs continuously.

The mitigation contractor installed an easy-to-read pressure monitor inside the house, which displays the fan's performance. Further monitoring will be performed by the Environmental Programs Division to track how efficiently the new system is lowering radon levels in the home.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that cannot be seen, tasted or smelled. It comes from trace amounts of Uranium in the ground under buildings, and is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States behind smoking.

Radon is always around us; it's part of nature, but buildings actually draw radon out of the ground, where the radioactive gas accumulates. This effect is at its strongest during winter, because

when the temperature drops, doors and windows tend to be closed and the home's heater is active.

Everybody knows that hot air rises, but it's not so well-known that an active heater combined with closed doors and windows can lower air pressure in your home. This low air pressure pulls the in the air from under your home, where the radon is lurking.

Another factor is the "stack effect," which is directly related to the height of the home. The taller the structure, the more air there is to move, which increases the low pressure that draws additional air from under the home. The "stack effect" really gets triggered when there are high winds blowing over the home, which also increase the negative pressure in the home.

Lastly, low pressure can be intensified by indoor fans that remove air from the home,

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